

Appl. No. 10/686,601
Amdt. dated January 18, 2006
Reply to Office action of October 20, 2005
Atty. Docket No. AP941US

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the office action mailed October 20, 2005, the examiner made the restriction requirement Final and insisted that claims 10 - 13 be withdrawn. The foregoing amendments comply with that requirement, withdrawing claims 10 - 13 without prejudice. The applicant retains the right to present claims 10 - 13 in a divisional application.

The examiner objected to the drawings because the reference numeral "10" was missing. The objection has been met by the foregoing amendments to the specification, which remove the reference numeral "10" from the description. On reflection, it has been concluded that the reference numeral 10 was superfluous because it was obvious that the entire device shown in Figure 1 was the light source unit.

The objection to the word "bight" in the specification was not explicit. Although the term "bight" often is used to describe the portion intermediate the arms of a C-shaped member, it is accepted that it is more commonly used in the geographical or nautical (knots) fields, so the objection has been met by substituting the word "web", which commonly is used for the plate connecting the flanges of a C-section girder.

The rejection of claims 1 - 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the disclosure by Chin *et al.*, US 5,295,052, is respectfully traversed.

It is evident from the explanation on pages 3 and 4 of the official letter that the examiner has misinterpreted claims 1 - 8 and has misunderstood the teachings of Chin *et al.*'s disclosure. It is noted that US 5,295,052 (Chin *et al.*) was discussed at page 2, lines 24 to 27 of the present applicant's specification.

Claim 1 of the present application reads as follows (emphasis added):

1. A light source unit, for supplying light via a light guide to a remote location, comprising a support for supporting a light source and a light guide in a prescribed alignment relative to each other, the support comprising a first part for supporting the light source, a second part for supporting the light guide, and at least first and second light baffles between the first part and the second part, the first and second baffles *each having an aperture for passing only a portion of light from the light source incident upon the baffle, the arrangement being such that light from the light source must pass through the apertures in both baffles to be incident upon the light guide.*

This arrangement provides thermal protection to the light guide because the claim requires apertures in first and second light baffles so disposed that "light from the light source must pass through the apertures in both baffles to be incident upon the light guide". The examiner alleges that opening 28 in Chin *et al.*'s Figure 1 and aperture 46 in heat sink 44 satisfy this requirement. However, it is clear from Chin *et al.*'s Figures 1 and 2 and the associated description that opening 28 is *not* in the light path 82 (the broken line) between the Xenon lamp 34 and the light cable connectors 94 on the front plate 16. In fact, Chin *et al.* state, at Col. 2, lines 49 - 58, that "In the portion to the left of the right portion 18 is a removable panel 26, shown in FIG. 3, which covers an opening 28 and is attached thereto by screws 25 through holes 30 in panel 26. One of the screws 25

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has an interlock 27 to cut unit power when removed. Shown through the aperture 28 is a lamp assembly 80 comprising a 300W Xenon lamp 34 supported by heat sinks having the form of mounting plates with fins providing heat sinking to an airflow passing therethrough as described below".

It is clear, therefore, that Chin *et al.*'s opening 28 is simply a gap between two heat sinks. As shown in FIG. 4, the gap provides a space for airflow to cool the heat sinks. The gap is accessible by removing the front panel 26 so that the lamp unit can be removed. In operation, the opening 28 is covered by plate 26 (FIG. 3) and the interlock ensures that *the lamp cannot be turned on while the plate 26 is removed*. Consequently, there is no way that light from the lamp 34 can travel through both aperture 46 and opening 28 to reach the light cable connectors 94.

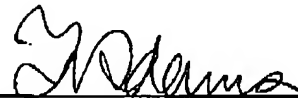
It is clear, therefore, that Chin *et al.* do not disclose all of the features of claim 1 and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is unfounded.

Claims 2 to 8 are dependent upon claim 1, so they include all of its features. Consequently, Chin *et al.* do not disclose all of the features of claims 1 to 8 either, and the rejection of those claims also is unfounded.

The rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Chin *et al.* (US 5,295,052) is respectfully traversed. The statement that "Chin *et al.* discloses the claimed invention ..." is wrong for the reasons set out above. Consequently, there is no basis for the rejection of claim 9 as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Notwithstanding that, it is also noted that the examiner selected only the statement (in claim 9) that the plate was pivotally mounted and ignored several other requirements of claim 9, such as (i) the plate is mounted between the first and second apertures (i.e., in the first and second baffles); (ii) the plate has a plurality of apertures of different sizes, (iii) the plate is pivotally mounted for interposing the plurality of apertures selectively between the first and second apertures, and (iv) at least one of the apertures has a size such that, when interposed, it restricts light to such an extent that the second aperture is substantially ineffective. None of these requirements was disclosed or suggested by Chin *et al.*'s disclosure.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all claims of record are patentable over the cited reference and early and favourable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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